

May 18, 2006

From: Douglas B. MacDonald
Secretary of Transportation

Re: State Route 519

Dave Dye's letter of April 27 about the impasse on Phase II of the SR 519 project was, in Dave's own apt words, our attempt to "call the question" on this badly stalled – maybe moribund – project in its long-proposed configuration on Royal Brougham Way.

We've had a flurry of replies and they offer a variety of viewpoints. Some, unfortunately, question our interest in the fundamental purposes of the project to improve freight movement between I-90 and the south Downtown area and waterfront. On the contrary, our interest is to help break the stalemate so that real progress can be made toward an achievable project plan in light of today's local circumstances and the current positions of everyone who has an interest.

Rather than reply individually to each of the letters we've received, we have created a site where everyone can inspect the entire correspondence. This will surely serve to enrich everyone's sense of one another's respective viewpoints. The link where you will find the letters back to Dave (and some addressed in horror to me) is:

www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr519/letters

Next we need an opportunity to talk together. We would be pleased to share with others the role of convening a meeting where the prospects for the project could be discussed by everyone in common. A sponsorship of a significant proportion of the interested parties is, in our view, an important prerequisite for the useful meeting that needs to be held. If you would be interested in joining with WSDOT in convening and participating in such a forum, please let Dave know at his email address dyed@wsdot.wa.gov. It would be very helpful if your email could include your own suggestions about when and where such a meeting should be held, who should be expected to be in attendance, and what material should be prepared in advance for everyone's consideration. We will share that information, too, and hope that it will form the basis, in the very near future, for the kind of jointly-sponsored forum for discussion that needs to be held.

We hope this approach will help bring a renewed and long overdue sense of possibility and progress for this important project.